

**VERTIGO**

issue **35**

SUGGESTED FOR  
MATURE READERS  
vertigo.com  
may 05



# FABLES™

**BILL WILLINGHAM**  
**DAVID HAHN**



ONCE UPON A TIME A SELF-STYLED TRICKSTER HERO, WHO'D SELDOM HAD A SCHEME TURN OUT WELL, FINALLY HAD A SCHEME TURN OUT VERY WELL INDEED.

MONA, DARLING, I KNOW YOU'RE MIFFED, BUT I HAVE A VERY GOOD EXCUSE FOR NOT SHOWING UP LAST NIGHT.

NO, NOT TWINS AGAIN.

TRIPLETS.

TRYING OUT FOR PARTS IN JACK THREE. I DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO TELL THEM WE'D ALREADY COMPLETED PRINCIPAL SHOOTING ON IT.

YOU SAY THAT NOW, BUT IF YOU SAW THEM, YOU'D FORGIVE ME INSTANTLY.



BILL WILLINGHAM, WRITER/CREATOR PRESENTS  
**JACK BE NIMBLE**  
PART TWO OF TWO

DAVID HAHN, PENCILS & INKS  
TODD KLEIN, LETTERS  
DANIEL VOZZO, COLORS  
JAMES JEAN, COVER ART  
MARIAH HUEHNER, ASST. ED  
SHELLY BOND, EDITOR



# CHAPTER SIX:

# THE MOSS TRIBULATIONS

"Jack and the Beanstalk" was an unqualified hit. Our world-wide gross was...well, that's none of your business. But trust me, it was HUGE.

IS HIS NIBBS IN YET?

YES, SIR. GO RIGHT IN.

Weeks away from opening, "Jack the Giant Killer" promised to be even BIGGER.

IT'S ALL ABOUT RESTORING TRADITIONS, SWEETIE, WHICH GIVE US OUR ONLY SOCIAL CONTINUITY IN A FAST-CHANGING WORLD.

As much as anyone, Nimble Pictures owned this town.

AND WHAT'S MORE TRADITIONAL IN HOLLYWOOD THAN THE CASTING COUCH?

IF I HAVE TO SINGLE-HANDEDLY KEEP IT FROM FINALLY DYING OFF, IT'S A SACRIFICE I'M RELUCTANTLY PREPARED TO MAKE.

KNOCK, KNOCK.

And I was a prince of the city.

BUSY, BOSS?

GOT TO SCOOT, DARLING. MOSS JUST CAME IN. DREAR BUSINESS ONCE MORE REARS ITS UGLY HEAD.

KISSES.





And RICH. Did I mention that? Rich, young, and cohabiting with a well-known action-adventure star, whose career would be RUINED if anyone knew which way his banner really fluttered.

LADIES, YOU DID A SUPERB JOB, AS ALWAYS. ONCE AGAIN YOU'VE MADE A SILK PURSE OUT OF A SOW'S EAR.

MORNING, MOSS. WHAT'S GOT YOU LOOKING SO PANICKY THIS TIME?



Years ahead of schedule, I'd already accomplished more than I ever dared dream.

PLEASE, JOHN, JUST DO ONE INTERVIEW.

WHY?



So why was I so relentlessly miserable?

YOU'VE BEEN THIS GREAT MYSTERY, EVER SINCE YOU ARRIVED IN TOWN FOUR YEARS AGO, AND SO FAR THAT'S WORKED WELL FOR US.



Because all of my success was built on an unknown foundation?

BUT THIS IS HOLLYWOOD, WHERE EATING YOUR OWN YOUNG IS A VIRTUE. FASCINATION CAN ALL TOO QUICKLY TURN TO RESENTMENT HERE.

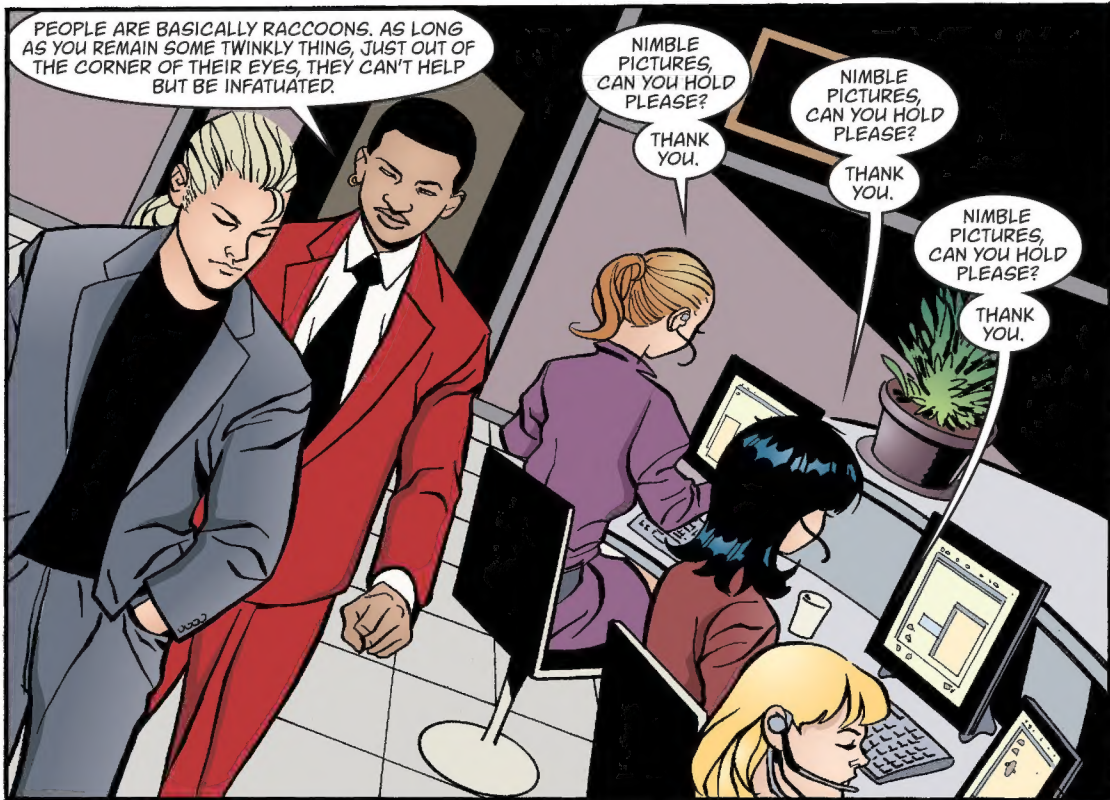
IF THEIR HUNGER ISN'T FED, LOVE WILL INEVITABLY TURN TO HATE. I'VE SEEN IT HAPPEN BEFORE.





AND YOUR SOLUTION IS...?

WE NEED TO CONSIDER GETTING AHEAD OF THAT CURVE BY DEFLATING THE BUBBLE BEFORE IT BURSTS.



PEOPLE ARE BASICALLY RACCOONS. AS LONG AS YOU REMAIN SOME TWINKLY THING, JUST OUT OF THE CORNER OF THEIR EYES, THEY CAN'T HELP BUT BE INFATUATED.

NIMBLE PICTURES, CAN YOU HOLD PLEASE?

THANK YOU.

NIMBLE PICTURES, CAN YOU HOLD PLEASE?

THANK YOU.

NIMBLE PICTURES, CAN YOU HOLD PLEASE?

THANK YOU.



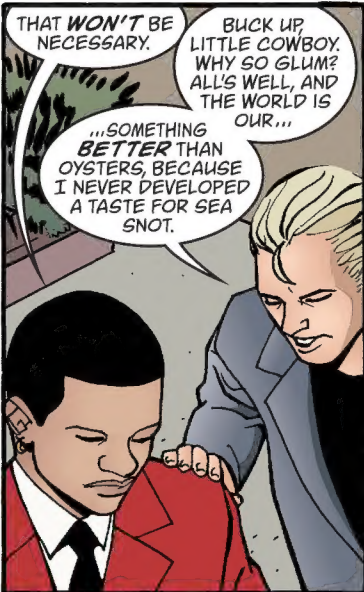
SO WE LET THEM GET ONE GOOD LOOK AT YOU, AND THEY'LL DUTIFULLY RESPOND BY FINDING SOME OTHER SHINY BAUBLE TO FIX THEIR ATTENTION ON.

THOSE ARE PRETTY GOOD ARGUMENTS, MOSS.



BUT I HIRED YOU TO BE THE PUBLIC FACE OF NIMBLE PICTURES. AND I PAY YOU A KING'S RANSOM TO DO IT.

IF YOU'RE NOT UP TO THE JOB, HELP ME FIND YOUR REPLACEMENT.



THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.

BUCK UP, LITTLE COWBOY. WHY SO GLUM? ALL'S WELL, AND THE WORLD IS OUR...

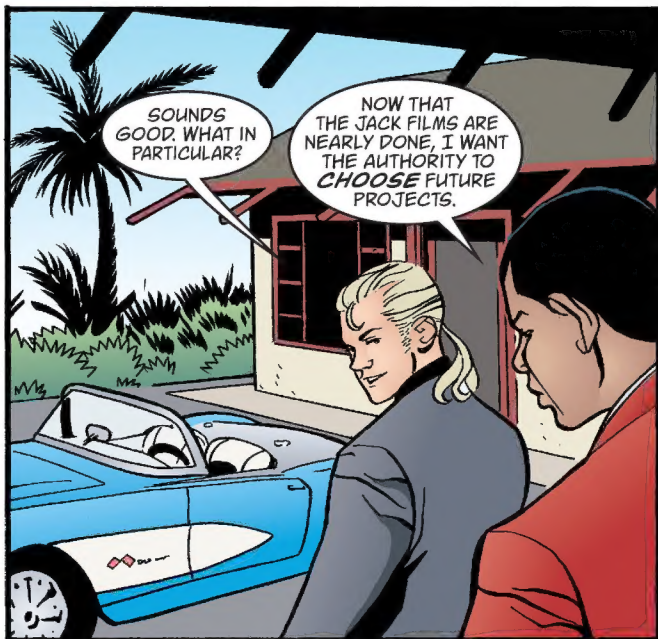
...SOMETHING BETTER THAN OYSTERS, BECAUSE I NEVER DEVELOPED A TASTE FOR SEA SNOT.





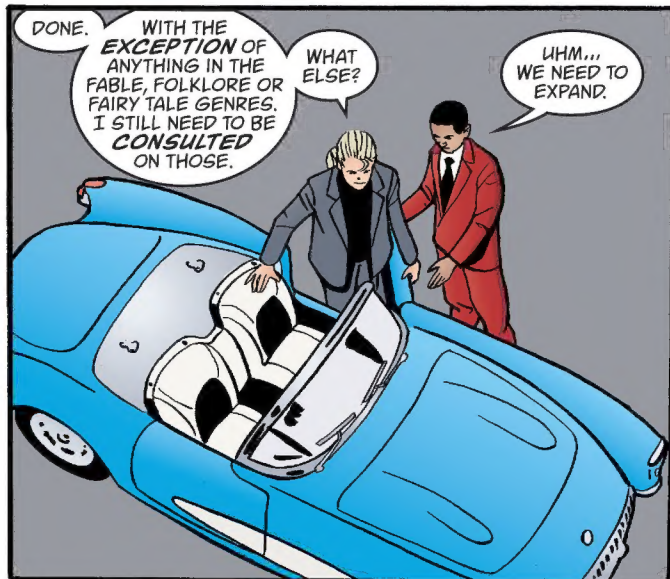
WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO TURN THAT **FROWN** UPSIDE DOWN?

I WANT MORE **REAL** RESPONSIBILITY-- NOT JUST PRETEND TO RUN THE SHOW, SO YOU CAN STAY IN THE BACKGROUND.



SOUNDS GOOD. WHAT IN PARTICULAR?

NOW THAT THE JACK FILMS ARE NEARLY DONE, I WANT THE AUTHORITY TO **CHOOSE** FUTURE PROJECTS.



DONE.

WITH THE **EXCEPTION** OF ANYTHING IN THE FABLE, FOLKLORE OR FAIRY TALE GENRES. I STILL NEED TO BE **CONSULTED** ON THOSE.

WHAT ELSE?

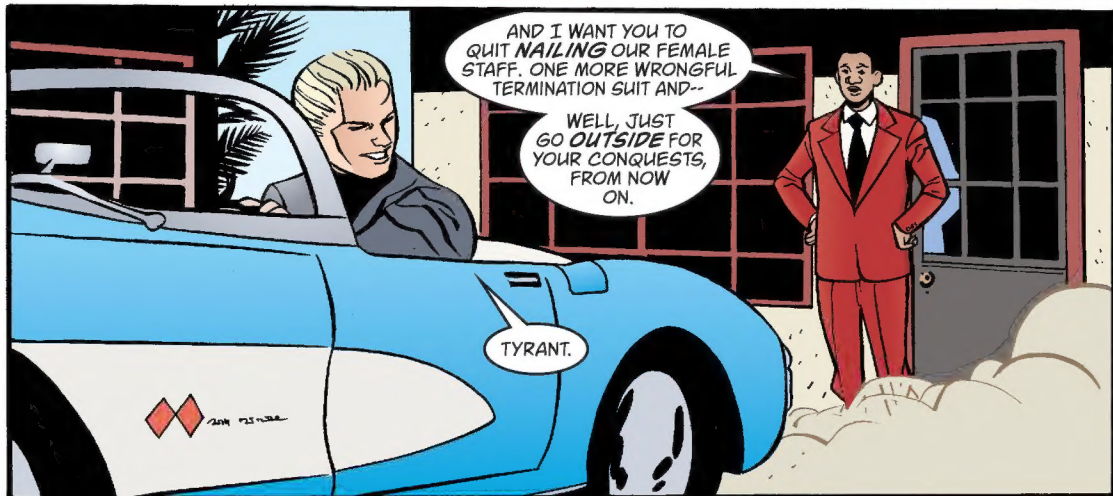
UHM... WE NEED TO EXPAND.



MAKES SENSE. YOU HANDLE IT.

AND I WANT TO BUY OUR SPECIAL EFFECTS LABS-- BRING THEM ENTIRELY **IN-HOUSE**.

DO IT.



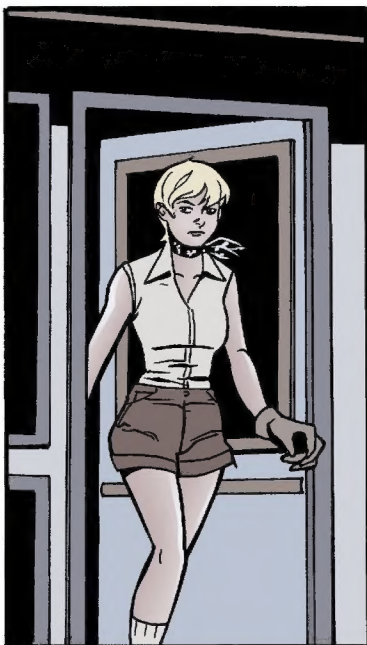
AND I WANT YOU TO QUIT **NAILING** OUR FEMALE STAFF. ONE MORE WRONGFUL TERMINATION SUIT AND--

WELL, JUST GO **OUTSIDE** FOR YOUR CONQUESTS, FROM NOW ON.

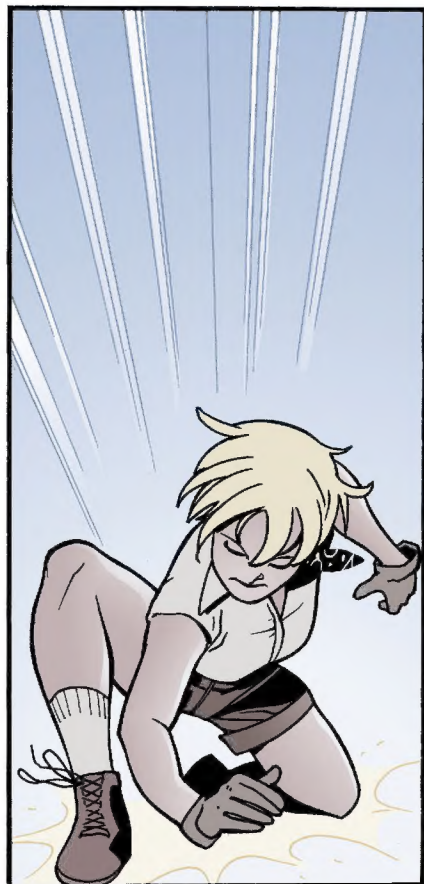
TYRANT.

CHAPTER SEVEN:

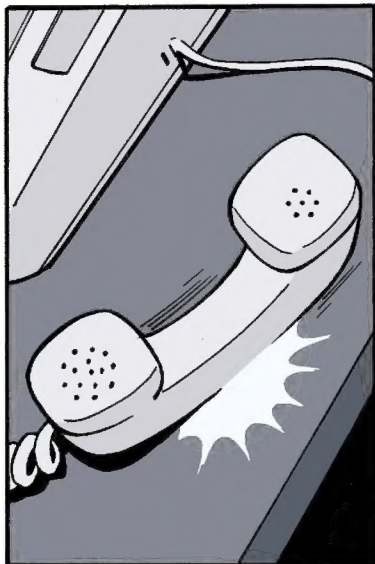
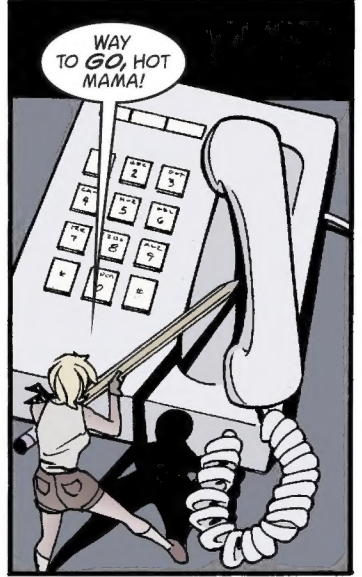
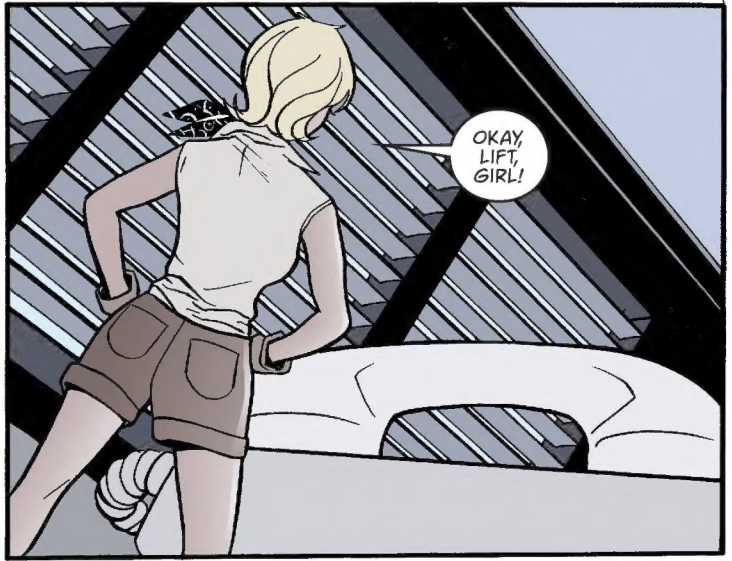
THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF JILL













# CHAPTER EIGHT:

# TWENTY EIGHT DAYS LATER







I think I'll buy a new car today.

OH, ONE OTHER THING-- PROBABLY NOT WORTH MENTIONING.

A MAN'S HOLDING FOR THE BOSS. HE CLAIMS TO KNOW MR. TRICK FROM THE OLD DAYS.



Or maybe a new vacation house in Milan--or Tuscany.

FROM BEFORE HE FOUNDED NIMBLE.

LOTS OF NUTS CLAIM TO KNOW JOHN TRICK FROM HIS PAST.

GET RID OF HIM.

Or a new villa at--what's that famous Italian lake they used in the last Star Wars movie?

YES, SIR, ONLY--HE DESCRIBED MR. TRICK PERFECTLY.

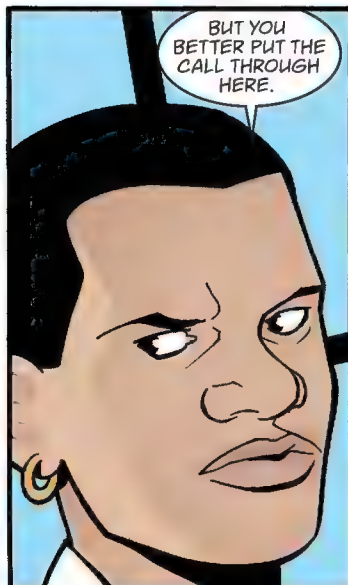
THERE WERE A FEW LONG-DISTANCE PHOTOS TAKEN BEFORE JOHN WENT REALLY DEEP INTO SECLUSION.



DOES MR. TRICK REALLY HAVE A MOON-SHAPED BIRTH-MARK ON HIS HIND END?

DESPITE MY ACKNOWLEDGED SOCIAL PREDILECTIONS, MRS. RENDELL, I *WOULDN'T* KNOW.

UNLIKE OUR FEARLESS LEADER, I *DON'T* CHASE TAIL ON THE JOB.



BUT YOU BETTER PUT THE CALL THROUGH HERE.



IF THIS GUY'S ON THE UP AND UP, HE'S AFTER SOMETHING SPECIFIC-- MOST LIKELY A PAYOFF-- AND *DAMAGE CONTROL'S* IN MY BAILIWICK.



# CHAPTER NINE:

# TUMBLING AFTER

LOOK AT THEM, ROBERT. AREN'T THEY GLORIOUS?

JACK OF THE TALES IS ON HIS WAY TO BECOMING THE MOST WELL-KNOWN FAIRY TALE CHARACTER IN HISTORY.

NOT JUST THE FILMS, WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY SHOW IN EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.

BUT THE MERCHANDISING, TOO. THE TOYS. THE ACTION FIGURES. THE OFFICIAL ADAPTATIONS, NOVELS AND COMIC BOOKS.

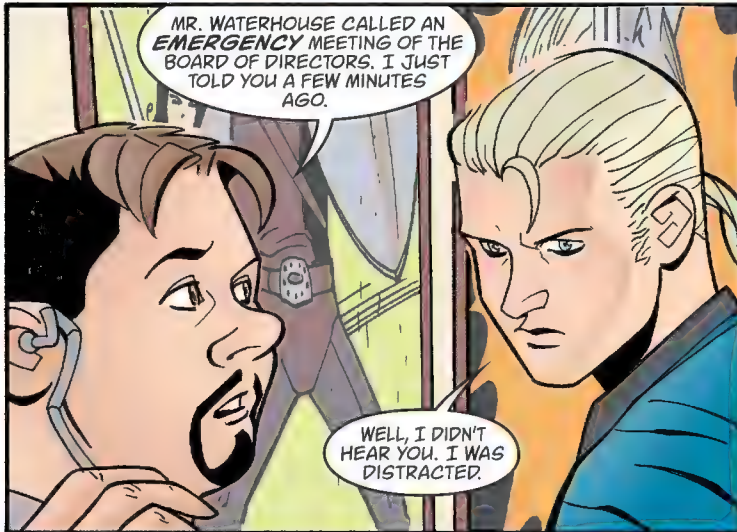
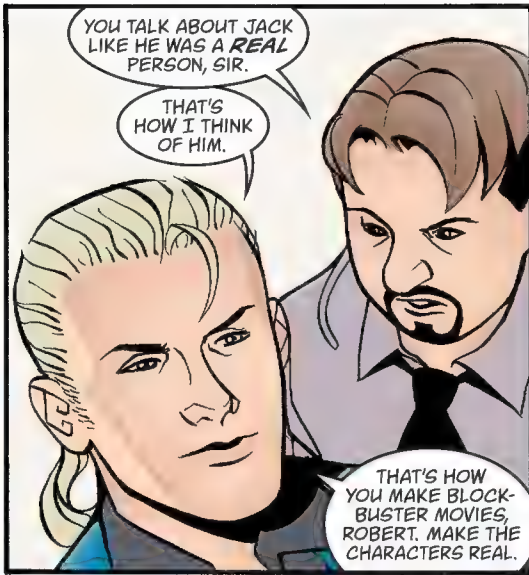
AND THE ANIMATED SERIES. LET'S NOT FORGET THAT.

THE JACK TALES PART TWO

THE JACK TALES PART THREE











MOSS,  
WHAT'S GOING  
ON?

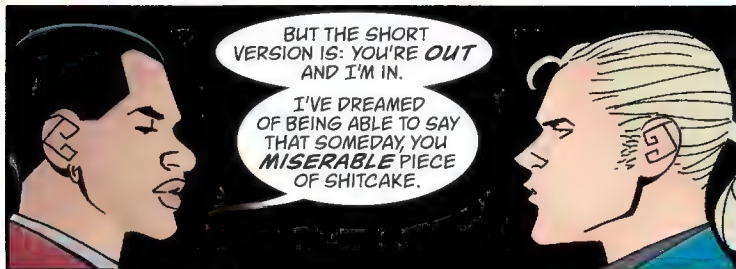
WHO  
ARE THESE  
PEOPLE?

THEY'RE OUR LAWYERS,  
JOHN. OUR NEW ONES. THEY'RE  
HERE TO INSURE A LEGALLY  
CORRECT TRANSFER OF  
**OWNERSHIP.**



TRANSFER OF *WHAT*  
OWNERSHIP? WHAT THE  
HELL ARE YOU *TALK-*  
*ING* ABOUT?

IT'S COMPLICATED,  
JOHN, AND I HAVE TO  
ADMIT I DON'T *UNDER-*  
*STAND* ALL OF THE  
PARTICULARS.

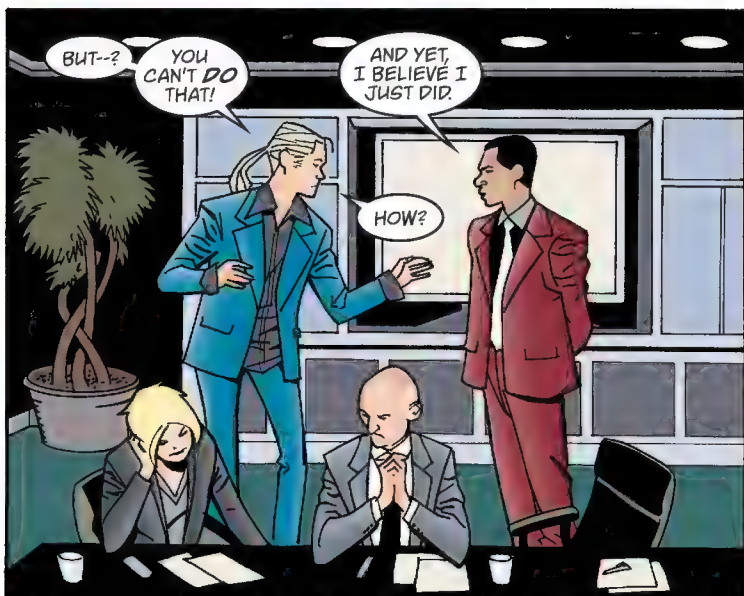


BUT THE SHORT  
VERSION IS: YOU'RE *OUT*  
AND I'M IN.

I'VE DREAMED  
OF BEING ABLE TO SAY  
THAT SOMEDAY, YOU  
*MISERABLE* PIECE  
OF SHITCAKE.



YOU'RE  
**F.I.R.E.D.**



BUT--?

YOU  
CAN'T *DO*  
THAT!

AND YET,  
I BELIEVE I  
JUST DID.

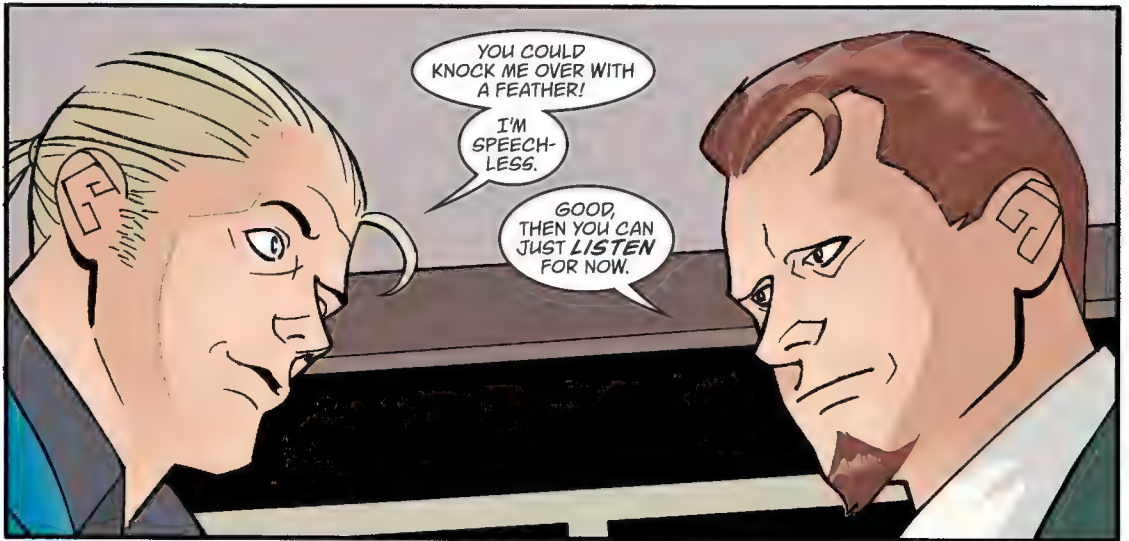
HOW?



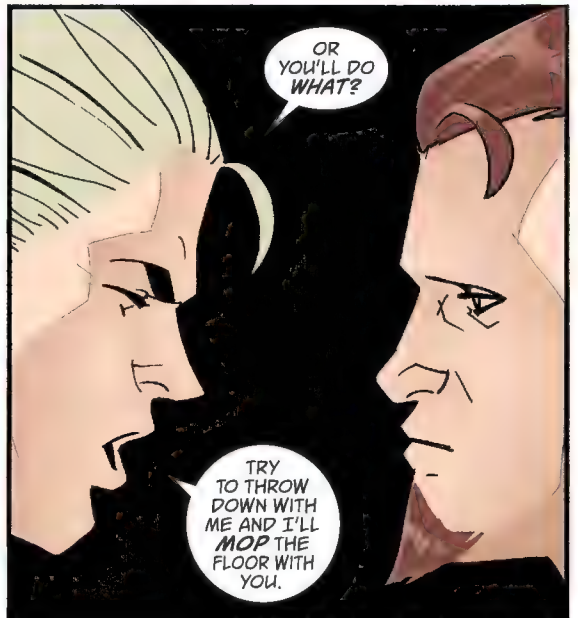
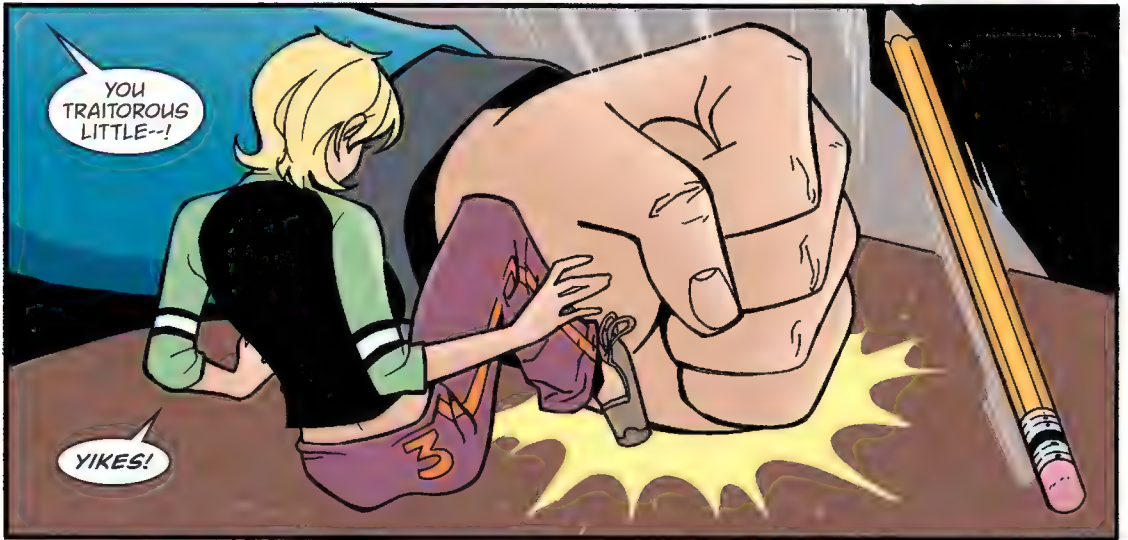
MAYBE YOU BETTER GO SEE THE  
MAN *WAITING* IN YOUR OFFICE,  
WHILE WE FINISH GETTING THE  
PAPERWORK READY.

HE'LL  
EXPLAIN EVERY-  
THING.







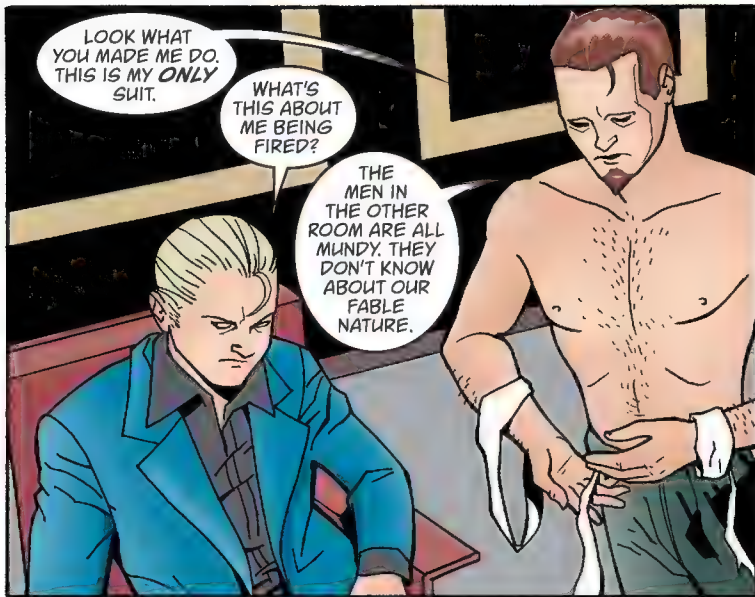






OR  
MAYBE I'LL  
JUST SIT  
DOWN.





LOOK WHAT YOU MADE ME DO. THIS IS MY **ONLY** SUIT.

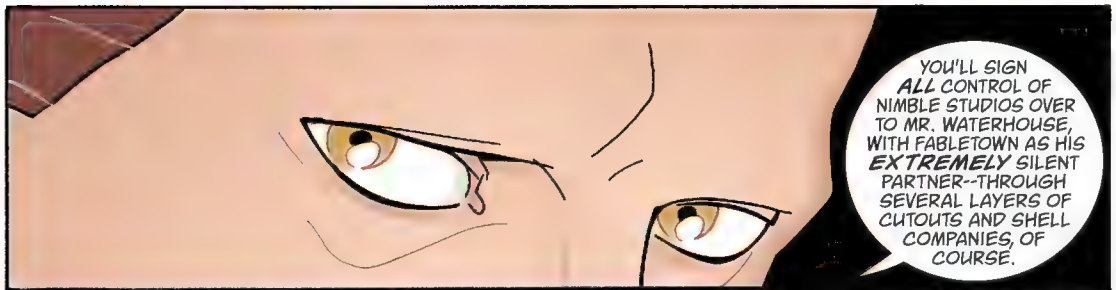
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT ME BEING FIRED?

THE MEN IN THE OTHER ROOM ARE ALL MUNDY. THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT OUR FABLE NATURE.



THEY THINK THIS IS JUST A TYPICAL HOLLYWOOD BACKSTABBING.

WHEN WE'RE DONE HERE, YOU'LL GO BACK OUT THERE AND SIGN EVERY PAGE WHERE THEY TELL YOU TO.



YOU'LL SIGN **ALL** CONTROL OF NIMBLE STUDIOS OVER TO MR. WATERHOUSE, WITH FABLETOWN AS HIS **EXTREMELY** SILENT PARTNER--THROUGH SEVERAL LAYERS OF CUTOUTS AND SHELL COMPANIES, OF COURSE.



HE'LL **NEVER** KNOW WHO WE REALLY ARE.

WHY WOULD I EVER CONSIDER DOING THAT? I HAVEN'T DONE **ANYTHING** WRONG.

YOU **STOLE** FROM US.

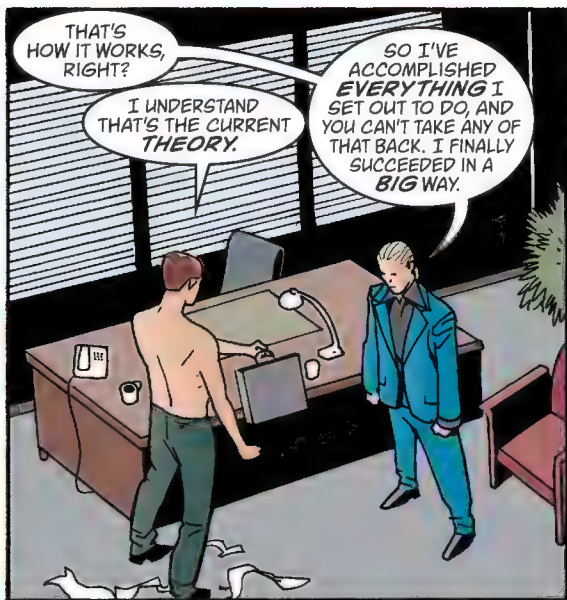
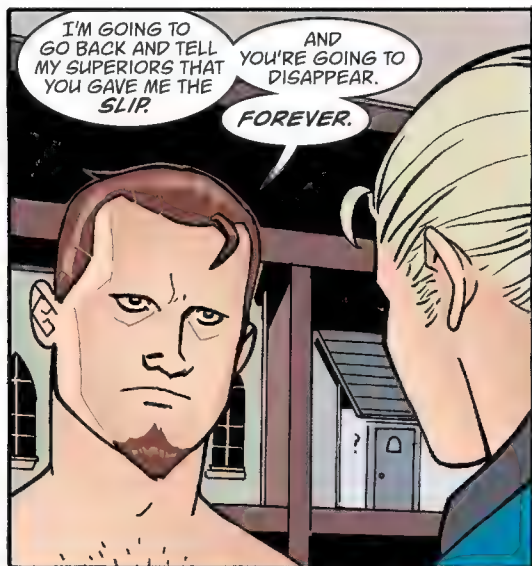


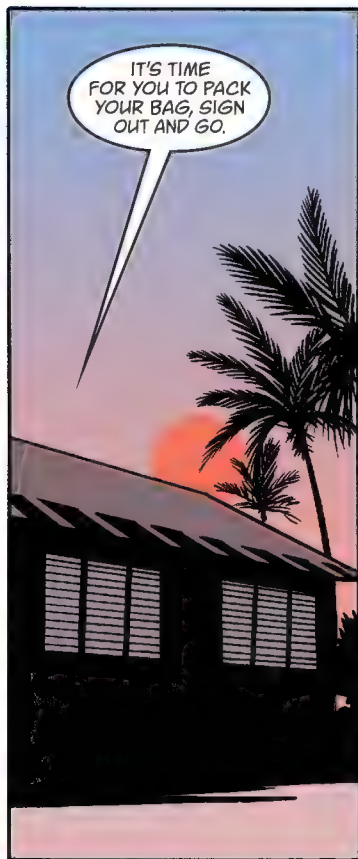
AND TURNED THAT FORTUNE INTO A VASTLY **BIGGER** FORTUNE. I CAN PAY YOU **BACK** RIGHT NOW, WITH INTEREST, AND STILL HAVE ENOUGH LEFT OVER TO--

AND ENTERED ONE OF THE **FORBIDDEN** PROFESSIONS. YOU RISKED DRAWING ATTENTION TO OUR TRUE NATURE.





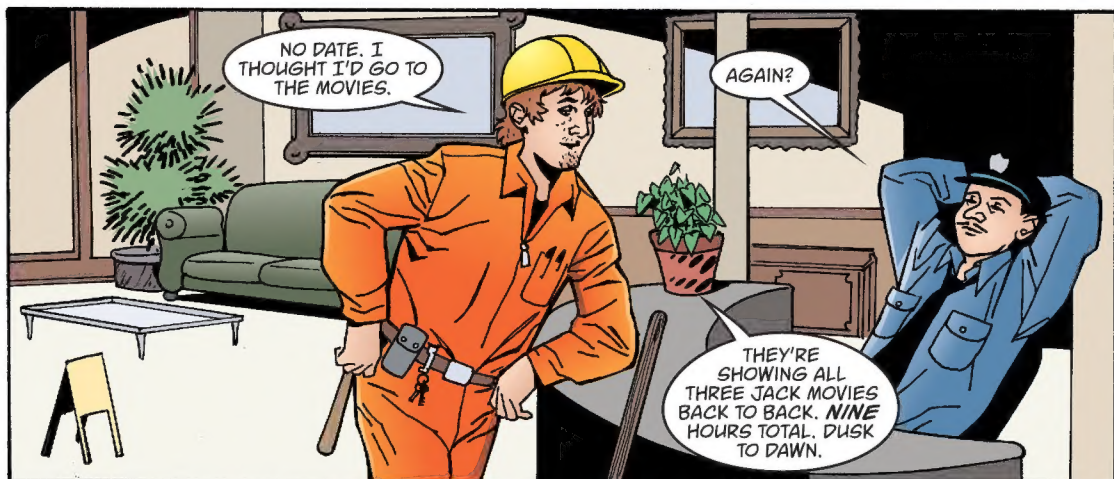






# CHAPTER TEN:

# BROKEN CROWNS AND CANDLESTICKS



**B**UT JACK WAS NEVER SEEN  
IN FABLETOWN AGAIN, UNTO  
THE VERY END OF DAYS.



**W**HICH ISN'T TO SAY HE  
DIDN'T HAVE MANY MORE  
ADVENTURES.

**NEXT: WE'LL PAGE BACK IN THE CALENDAR  
TO SEE WHAT OCCURRED IN FABLETOWN  
DURING JACK'S HOLLYWOOD YEARS.**



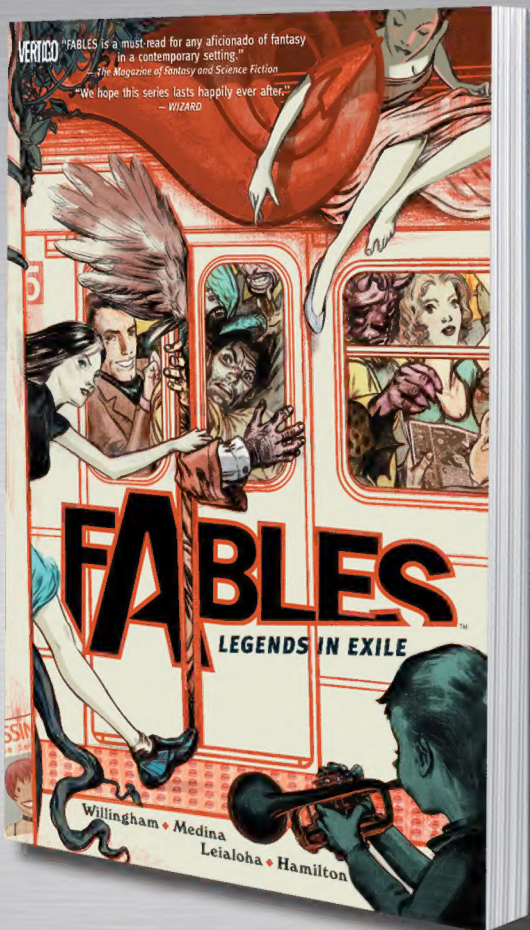
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# BILL WILLINGHAM

"[A] wonderfully twisted concept... features fairy tale characters banished to the noirish world of present-day New York."  
– THE WASHINGTON POST



- VOL. 1: LEGENDS IN EXILE
- VOL. 2: ANIMAL FARM
- VOL. 3: STORYBOOK LOVE
- VOL. 4: MARCH OF THE WOODEN SOLDIERS
- VOL. 5: THE MEAN SEASONS
- VOL. 6: HOMELANDS
- VOL. 7: ARABIAN NIGHTS (AND DAYS)
- VOL. 8: WOLVES
- VOL. 9: SONS OF EMPIRE
- VOL. 10: THE GOOD PRINCE
- VOL. 11: WAR AND PIECES
- VOL. 12: THE DARK AGES
- VOL. 13: THE GREAT FABLES CROSSOVER
- 1001 NIGHTS OF SNOWFALL



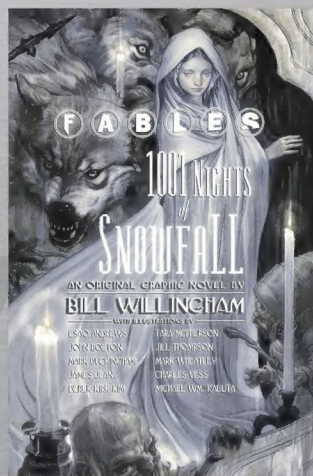
FABLES VOL. 3:  
STORYBOOK LOVE



FABLES VOL. 6:  
HOMELANDS



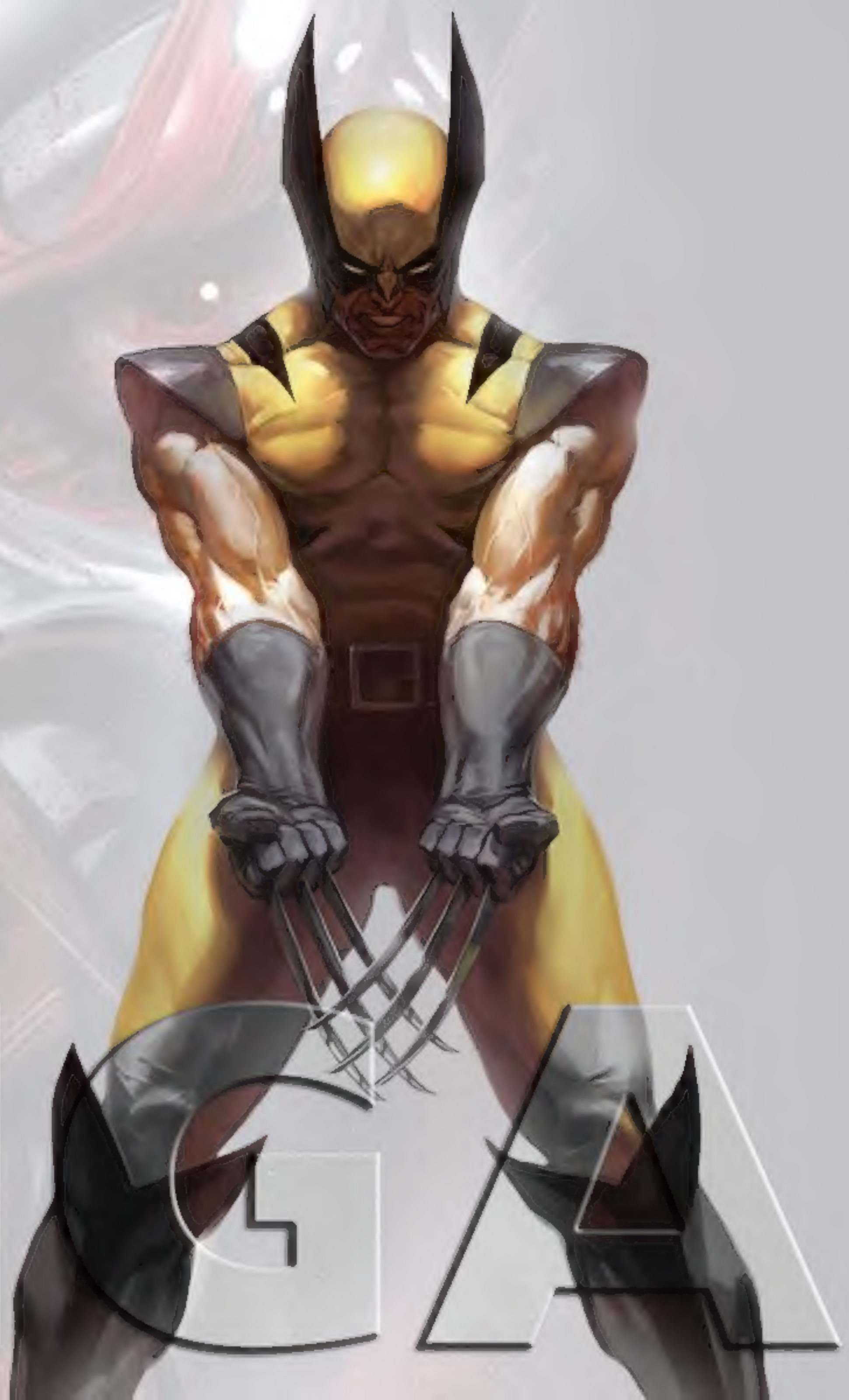
FABLES:  
1001 NIGHTS OF SNOWFALL



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NATHAN